naked ape

我喜歡紅酒。順帶一提，我酒量很好。以前我喜歡杯同樂，不習一個人在家喝。有一次剛好拿到一瓶白天就倒一杯嚐嚐滋味，結果全身暖呼呼，連臟部速度都加快。原來酒是我的能量來源！那次之後，了只在工作時少量飲酒的習慣，也傳染給中村了。糕的大人們…乖孩子…（以下省略）

switch
組毒特搜班

Act.45

HMPH
...
glance
HE SEEMS... DIFFERENT SOMEHOW.
...
AH!
HAL, STOP THE CAR!
GRAB
!!

SCREEE
HONK
DAMMIT, KAI!
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL US?!
THROW THROW
BUT... BUT...
YOU'RE NOT WEARING YOUR GLASSES!
PEOPLE WITH BAD EYES HAVE TO WEAR GLASSES WHEN THEY DRIVE!
HAL! ARE YOU LISTENING?!
...HUH?

NOW WHOSE EYES ARE BAD, HUH?!
EEK!
SKREEE
!!
HAL?!
Owww
CAN'T YOU SEE IT?
THAT BLACK CAR'S BEEN FOLLOW-ING US ALL ALONG.
HUH?
WHO WOULD BE...?
BEAT'S ME.
KREEE
!!

THEY STILL THERE?
Stare
LOOKS LIKE WE LOST 'EM.
THAT WAS TOO EASY...
BAH
!!
SKREE
!!
CRAP!

CHAK
SLUMP
HEY, NOW...
THAT WAS SOME CRAZY-ASS DRIVING THERE.
?
!

MOM'S A LITTLE TOUCHY.
PAT
YEAH
BUT DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA! I LOVE MOM.
NOD NOD
ME TOO.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
SO WE GOTTA DO WHAT SHE SAYS.
YEAH
I CAN STILL HEAR YOU
DO YOU HAVE YOUR HANDKERCHIEF, DEAR?
YUP
I'M OFF!
TUP
TUP

THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A WHILE.
!
IT DOES HAVE A LOT TO DO WITH ME.
I TRANSFERRED, SEE I'M NOT AT MEGURO ANYMORE
THAT INVESTIGATION'S BEING RUN OUT OF THE AZABU PRECINCT.
IT DOESN'T HAVE A DAMN THING TO DO WITH MEGURO
TRUE. HOWEVER-
"CHIEF OF SECTION 5, THE GANG-BUSTERS."
GANG-BUSTERS ?
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME NOW.
THE "GANG-BUSTERS"!
KLIK
ITS PROPER NAME IS THE "SPECIAL ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME UNIT."
GANGBUSTERS FOR SHORT.
Greater
Kanto
Public
Welfare

HE LEFT HIS JOB AT THE MEGURO PRECINCT...
...AND GOT PICKED UP BY SECTION 5, APPARENTLY.
SECTION 5... FIREARMS AND DRUGS, THEN.
SO WHAT CONDITIONS DID THE COPS COME UP WITH?
THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D LET GO A MURDER SUSPECT SO EASILY.
OH, IT WASN'T MUCH.
A RELEASE CONDITION.
WE HAVE TO TURN OVER THE RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATIONS PERTINENT TO THE CASE
THE POLICE WILL BE ALLOWED TO FOLLOW HAL'S INVESTIGATION UNTIL HE'S NO LONGER A SUSPECT.
AH, SO THEN NARITA...
THEY BOTH HAVE AN INTEREST IN SEEING THE MURDER AND THE SMUGGLING CASES SOLVED
AND WE WANT TO DEMONSTRATE HAL'S INNOCENCE.
ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS?
JUST LETTING HIM DO WHAT HE WANTS AFTER GETTING WRAPPED UP IN A CASE LIKE THIS...
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE
I WANT HIM RELEASED IMMEDIATELY

DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S A LITTLE TOO MUCH?
...
THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR COMMITTING MURDER
THERE'S A LOT OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.
HE'S CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN AN UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU HAVE A LOT TO LOSE BY RESTRAINING HIM.
EITHER THE PEOPLE TRYING TO PIN THIS CRIME ON HIM...
...OR THE SYNDICATE HE'S INFILTRATING.
BY LETTING HIM GO, THE ELEMENTS TRYING TO TRAP HIM WILL BEGIN TO MOVE AGAIN.
JUST CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE.

BUT IF YOU DETAIN HIM...
YOU LOSE THE CHANCE TO SEE ALL OF THAT.
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE MURDER
YOU COULD BLOW THE WHOLE SMUGGLING GROUP WIDE OPEN.
...
YOU'RE A FRIGHT-ENING MAN
YOU'RE WILLING TO USE YOUR OWN AGENT AS BAIT?
A PRETTY RISKY MOVE.
THERE'S NO WAY TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE SHORT OF DISCOVER-ING THE TRUE KILLER.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
"HE UNDER-STANDS THAT TOO."
THAT'S THE PRICE OF YOUR FREEDOM.

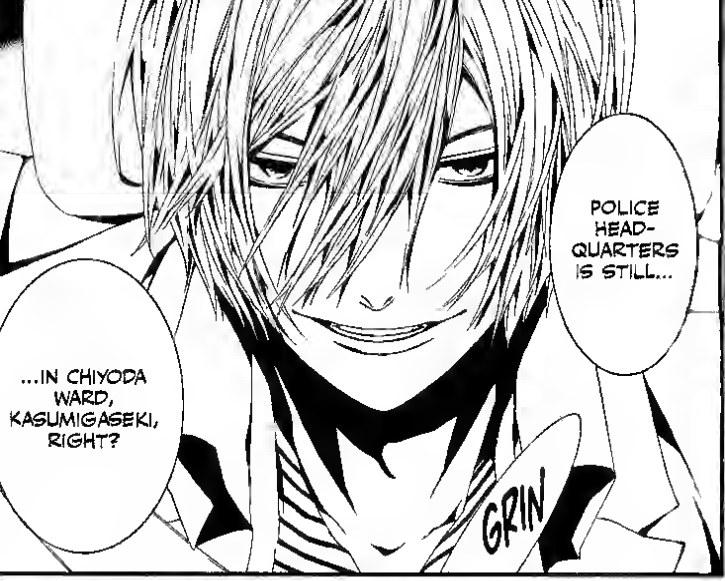
KA CHUK
AS LONG AS YOU'RE A SUSPECT, I GET TO FOLLOW YOU AROUND.
AND I HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING YOU SEE AND HEAR.
SO LET'S JUST HAVE A NICE DRIVE, SHALL WE?
SLAM
AND TRY NOT TO HIDE ANYTHING FROM EACH OTHER.
NARITA..
HOW MAY I BE OF USE TO YOU?
WELL THEN
GRIN GRIN
KINDA MEAN, AREN'T YA?
JUST LIKE ALWAYS
SKRITCH

SECTION 2
AGH!
I HATE THAT GLASSES-WEARING SO-AND-SO, BUT HE'S DONE A LOT OF WORK.
NOW, NOW...
WE'VE CONFIRMED THAT "JIN" IS SELLING AT THREE MAIN LOCATIONS
CLUB ARROW, CURE AND CINNAMON
INCI-DENTALLY ...
HE KILLED THAT GIRL AT "CURE."
AW, C'MON... YOU SHOULDN'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT.
THESE DOCU-MENTS ARE ESSEN-TIALLY THE RESULTS OF HIS PERSONAL INVESTI-GATION.
FIRST WE NEED SOME WAY TO VERIFY IT'S ACCURACY.

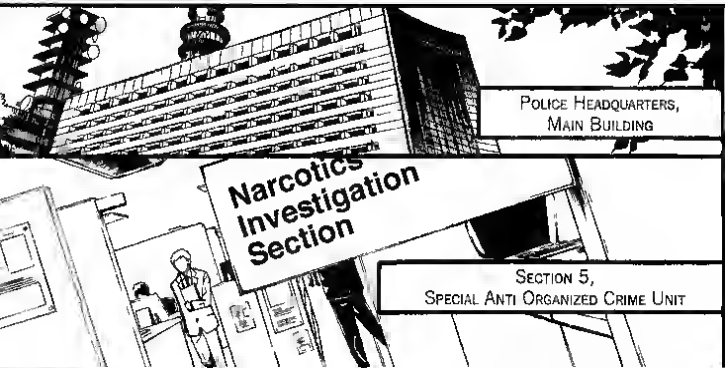
CHIEF!
AGREED.
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF PEOPLE, SO THAT'S DOABLE.
WE SHOULD SEND UNDER-COVER AGENTS TO ALL THREE CLUBS.
I'VE TRIED OVER AND OVER, BUT I CAN'T GET KURABA-YASHI TO ANSWER HIS PHONE HE TURNED IT OFF
...
WHAT A SLACKER.
IF THIS INFOR-MATION IS ACCURATE, SOONER OR LATER JIN IS GOING TO SHOW UP AT ONE OF THESE CLUBS.
THE PROBLEM IS WHAT TO DO ONCE THAT HAPPENS.
DON'T FORGE
OUR JOB IS NOT JUST TO CAPTURE THIS MAN.
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE SMOOTH EXECUTION OF YOUR DUTIES

YOU BET.
SO NOW I'LL JUST ASK YOU AS A DETECTIVE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER?
...
WHEN YOU WERE QUESTIONED, I HEARD THAT ALL YOU SAID WAS "I DON'T KNOW."
THAT'S TRUE
NOBODY NOWADAYS IS GONNA BELIEVE
..THE EXCUSE THAT YOU HAVE NO MEMORY OF THE INCIDENT.
HUH?

OH, I REMEMBER IT ALL RIGHT
RIGHT UP UNTIL I MET THE WOMEN
WHEN YOU AWOKE AT THE SCENE, THERE WERE BRUISES ON YOUR HEAD AND THE BACK OF YOUR NECK
YOU GOTTA ADMIT THAT IT'S NOT TOO CONVINC-ING
AND YET YOU SAY YOU'RE INNOCENT.
AMNESIA
EVEN SUPPOSING THAT YOUR MEMORY LOSS IS DUE TO HEAD TRAUMA. .
HOW DO YOU PLAN TO GET THAT MEMORY BACK?
...
ALL WE CAN DO IS CONFIRM ALL THE FACTS AND TRY TO TURN BACK TIME.
CONFIRM THE FACTS?
WELL, YOU GUYS HAVE INVESTI-GATED THE INCIDENT WAY MORE THAN I HAVE, RIGHT?
SO WE'LL START THERE.
WAIT! DON'T TELL ME THIS CAR'S-


POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS IS STILL...
...IN CHIYODA WARD, KASUMIGASEKI, RIGHT?
GRIN

WE'RE NOT HIDING ANYTHING FROM EACH OTHER NOW, ARE WE?
SIIIGGHH
NO WONDER THEY LET YOU HAVE A CAR...


Police Headquarters, Main Building
Narcotics Investigation Section
Section 5, Special Anti Organized Crime Unit

LET ME JUST SAY THIS.
I WISH I KNEW.
SO WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?
...
IT'S BEING HANDLED BY THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION, SO THERE'S A LIMIT TO WHAT I CAN TELL YOU
THE MURDER INVESTIGATION ITSELF ISN'T A GANG-BUSTER CASE
ANYWAY, HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW.
...
CHIEF HIKI...?
YOUR BOSS IS A REAL PIECE OF WORK.
SOME KIND OF PULL WITH THE TOP BRASS.

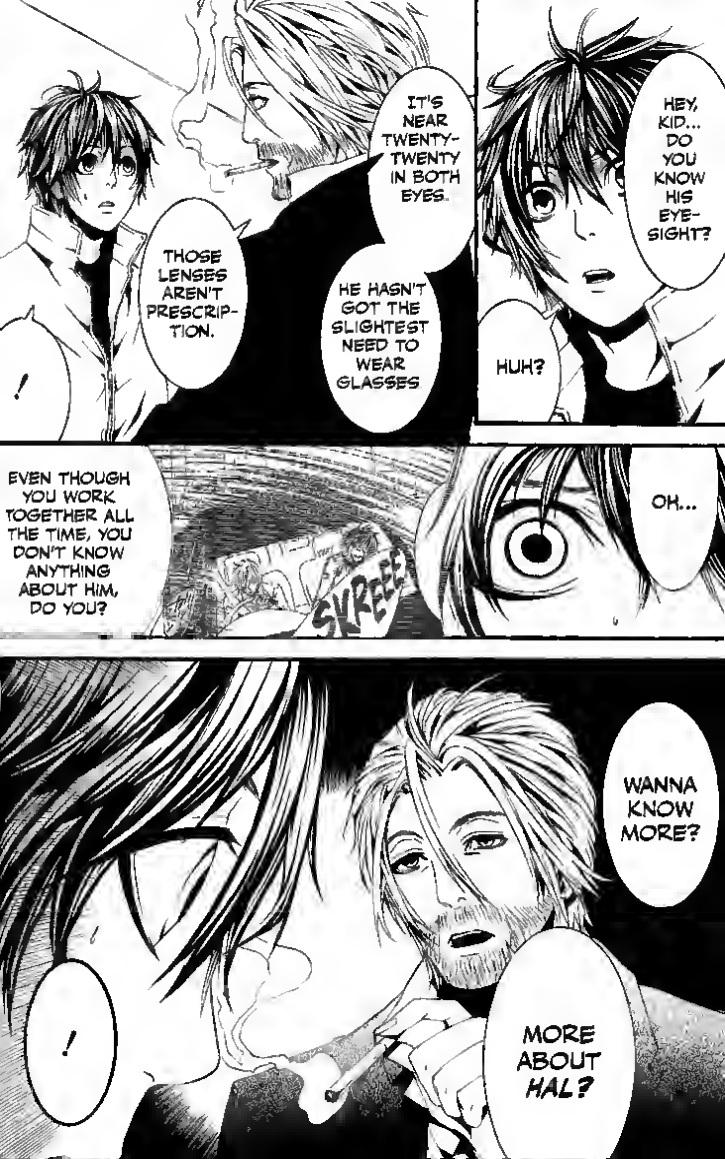
THE GIRL'S NAME WAS HASUMI ABE.
TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD.
THE AUTOPSY REVEALED THAT SHE WAS STABBED IN THE CHEST AND DIED IMMEDIATELY.
...
THE MURDER WEAPON WAS THE KNIFE YOU HAD IN YOUR HAND--IT FITS THE WOUND PERFECTLY.
AND INCIDENTALLY, YOURS WERE THE ONLY FINGERPRINTS ON IT.
HOW FAR DID YOU GET WITH YOUR CASE ON HER?
SHE STARTED SELLING DRUGS AT CLUBS IN ROPPONGI ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO.
SHF
HER RESI-DENCE
PER-SONAL FRIENDS
THE DRUGS SHE WAS SELLING.
AND THE MEANING OF THIS SYMBOL.

UGH...
HAL?
THE BRAND OF A RYUGEN SLAVE...
NO, IT'S NOT.
KRAK
HM?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...
THAT WOMAN WASN'T A MEMBER OF THE RYUGEN.
!

I KNEW ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY OF RYUGEN INVOLVEMENT FROM SECTION 2'S INVESTIGATION.
AND AN INFORMANT TOLD ME THAT DRAGON SPEED AND DRAGON DIVE WERE GOING AROUND AGAIN.
THERE'S SOMEONE SELLING OLD DRUGS AT CLUBS IN ROPPONGI.
A YOUNG GUY. BLACK HAIR?
YEAH.
YOU SHOULD GO AND CHECK IT OUT.
HEY...
UH

I'VE GOT ALL KINDS OF STUFF.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
.....
HASUMI TOLD ME THAT A FRIEND HAD GOTTEN HER INTO DEALING
THE TATTOO ON HER SHOULDER WAS JUST HER IMITATING HIM
I SEE...
SO THE PROBLEM IS FIGURING OUT WHO THE FRIEND IS.
I NEED TO TAKE A BREAK.
HAL ...
SORRY ...
...
KRAK

SASUKE
I KNEW IT...
SHF
GUESS HE'S STILL NO GOOD WITH RAIN
HUH?
LD SEVEN
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
CHIK
I MEAN HE WASN'T JUST LOOKING INTO THE VICTIM.
WHEN THERE'S A MURDER...
...YOU HAVE TO INVESTIGATE THE WITNESSES. COMMON SENSE
PEEFF
AND HIS LIFE ITSELF NOW HAS A CRIMINAL MOTIVE BEHIND IT.


HEY, KID... DO YOU KNOW HIS EYE-SIGHT?
HUH?
IT'S NEAR TWENTY-TWENTY IN BOTH EYES.
HE HASN'T GOT THE SLIGHTEST NEED TO WEAR GLASSES
THOSE LENSES AREN'T PRESCRIP-TION.
!
OH...
SKREEE
EVEN THOUGH YOU WORK TOGETHER ALL THE TIME, YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, DO YOU?
WANNA KNOW MORE?
MORE ABOUT HAL?
!

Act.46

EVEN THOUGH YOU WORK TOGETHER ALL THE TIME...
...YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, DO YOU?
WANNA KNOW MORE?
MORE ABOUT HAL?
!
HAL'S PAST...
GULP
...

...
KRAK
ZAAA
SHUFF
...
MOM!
MOM, LOOK!

SEE, DOESN'T HE LOOK JUST LIKE ME?
AH...

SNATCH
NO!
DON'T MAKE HIM WEAR YOUR PRESCRIPTION GLASSES! YOU'LL RUIN HIS PERFECT VISION!
YOU DON'T NEED TO GET SO ANGRY
MOM, I WANT GLASSES
ABSOLUTELY NOT. YOU'LL WRECK YOUR EYES
PATT
MEANIE
I HEARD THAT!
SHEESH. THOSE TWO...

...
TWITCH
NO... WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT, IT'S NOT A METHAMPHETAMINE— IT'S JUST AN AMPHETAMINE.
GA
GA
GA
GA
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY DIFFERENT BOOKS?
Huh?
BUT... HAL SAYS HE LIKES THIS ONE BETTER!
NOD NOD
Pharmaceutical Reference
CHONG
HUFF
HUFF
SHEESH
Aw... I liked the other one better.
TWITCH
DON'T BRING WORK HOME!
Read this one!
WHAT!

MOM'S A LITTLE TOUCHY.
PAT
YEAH
BUT DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA! I LOVE MOM.
NOD NOD
ME TOO.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
SO WE GOTTA DO WHAT SHE SAYS.
YEAH
DO YOU HAVE YOUR HANDKERCHIEF, DEAR?
YUP
I'M OFF!

HAVE A GOOD DAY!
...
OKAY, TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM!

...
SNIP
...
...
SHF

CHIK
CAN'T REALLY SEE TOO WELL...
So cute
KOP KOP
HEH HEH
PLIP
!
ZAAAA
...
NO UMBRELLA.
OH WELL

AAA
OH... NO- I'LL HAVE TO GO PICK HAL UP.
.....
CHIK
SAUSS SAUSS
NOW I CAN'T SEE AT ALL...
WHUMP
OH, SORRY!
!

SPLASH
AH--
DAD'S GLASSES
!!
HAL!!

WHAM
AAAAAA
...

AAAAAA
MOM ...?
AAAAAA
ドドド

...HAL?
HAL?
I'VE GOTTA BE STRONG
DAD'S... CRYING

KREE

I'm home...

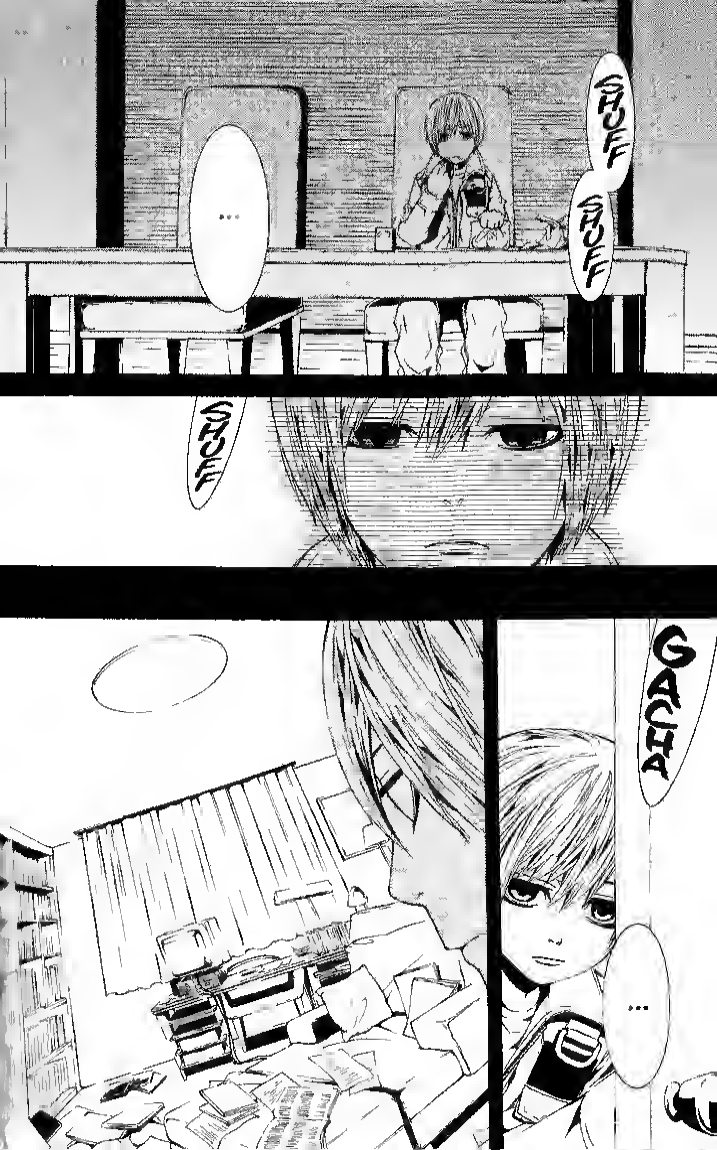
...

.....

I'll be late again today. Get whatever you like for dinner.

SHUMP

CHOMP


SNUFF SNUFF
...
SNUFF
GACHA
...

FLUMP
T/K
T/K
T/K

PROFESSOR KURA-BAYASHI...
TAK
TAK
TAK
HE'S... HE'S A STRONG KID.
TAK
TAK
DIDN'T EVEN CRY WHEN HIS MOM DIED.
TAK
YE,AH... HE'LL BE FINE.
TAK
YOUR BOY. WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?
TAK
GA CHAK

GA CHAK
...
...

ZZZZZ
SHUF
...
KACHA
PATTER PATTER

...
GOOD MORNING, HAL.
I THOUGHT WE'D ..HAVE BREAKFAST TOGETHER, FOR ONCE
KATUNK
..OKAY
LET'S EAT
...YEAH

CHNK
...
CHK CHK
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.
TINK
CHK CHK
...!

...
I'M SORRY, HAL...
IF I'D...!
DAD.
...
IT'S MY FAULT...
...THAT YOUR MOM DIED.
SORRY, I GOTTA GO TO SCHOOL...
!
SHF
NO, I MEAN...
MOM DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCI-DENT.

TWITCH
HAL!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, DAD
!
IT'S MINE.

I TOOK YOUR GLASSES WITHOUT PERMIS-SION.
I DIDN'T SEE THE CAR.
HAL?
I DIDN'T LISTEN TO MOM.
HAL...
IF I'D...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
HAL!
HUG
I DIDN'T KNOW...
..YOU WERE HURTING SO MUCH

I'M SO SORRY...
I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE ANY MORE...
Waaaaah

PLOP
!
AAAAA
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
!
DASH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
GACHA
!

DAD?
SLAM
KATANA
Wha
!
KREE
DAD-
patta patta

AAAAAA!
DAD...?
snitch

Act.47

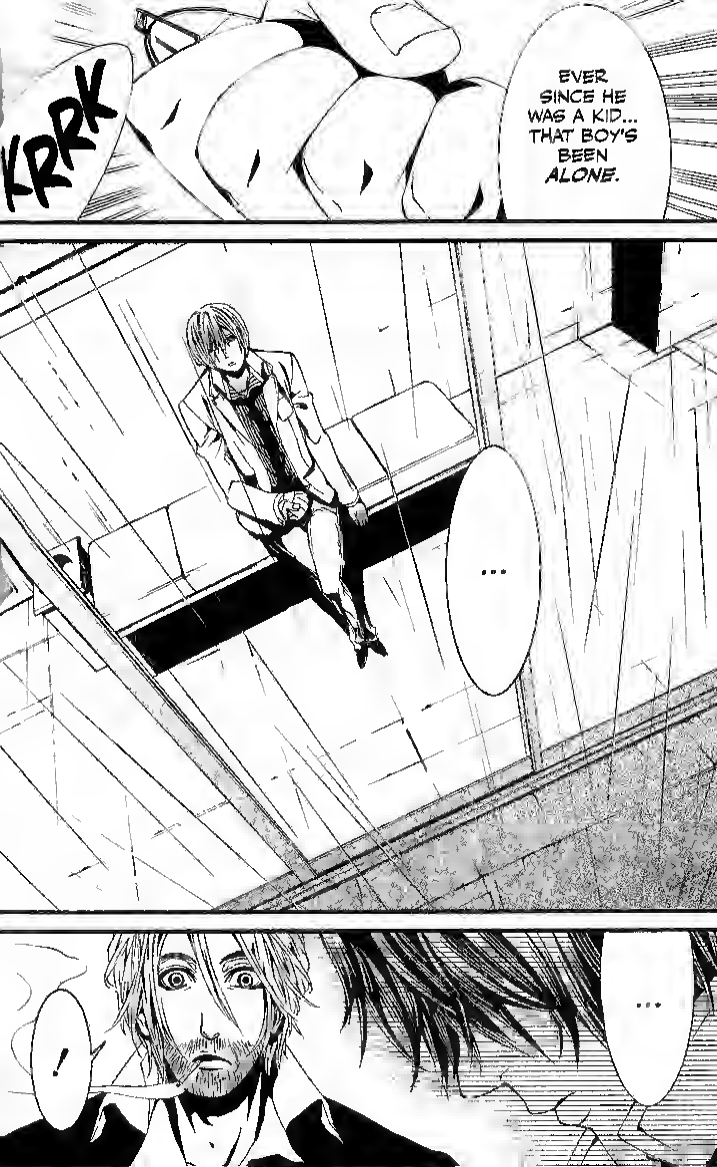
AAAA
DAD...?
SWITCH ...?
SNIFF
SNIFF
!

HE WAS FOUND THERE A DAY LATER.
HIS TEACHER CAME BY WHEN HER CALLS ABOUT HIS ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL WENT UNANSWERED.
AND...
THEY FOUND HIM SURROUNDED BY HIS FATHER'S DOCUMENTS.

WHEN THEY FOUND HIM...
HE'S TEMPORARILY LOST HIS MEMORY.
AMNESIA...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE SHOCK OF HIS DAD'S DISAPPEARANCE WAS PROBABLY PART OF IT TOO.
PFFFF
SOMEONE HIT HIM FROM BEHIND, AND HIS MEMORY OF RETURNING HOOME WAS JUST GONE.
HAL'S DAD...
HIS FATHER STILL HASN'T TURNED UP.
NOBODY KNOWS WHY HE DISAPPEARED.

THREE YEARS AFTER HIS MOM DIES HE WAS STILL ONLY 7.
IT WAS SUCH A STRANGE CASE THAT THE DETECTIVE ASSIGNED TO IT STILL REMEMBERS THE SCENE.
THE ROOM WAS SOAKED FROM THE RAIN.
THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT MULTIPLE PEOPLE HAD BEEN IN AND OUT OF THE ROOM, BUT STRANGELY, NONE OF THE VALUABLES HAD BEEN TOUCHED.
AND RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF THE CASE...
...WAS A WEIRDLY STOIC BOY WITH GLASSES TOO BIG FOR HIS FACE.

RAIN PROBABLY SEEMS LIKE SOME KIND OF BAD OMEN TO HIM NOW.
BOTH OF HIS PARENTS DISAPPEARED ON RAINY DAYS.
...


KRRK
EVER SINCE HE WAS A KID... THAT BOY'S BEEN ALONE.
...
!
...

AW, JEEZ.
NOW YOU'RE CRYIN' ON ME?
I WASN'T CRYING!
heh
WELL, HE PROBABLY NEEDS SOMEONE LIKE YOU AROUND.
HE'S FORGOTTEN HOW TO CRY FOR HIMSELF.
KA TUNK
HAL?

KA CHAK
NARITA!
WHAT'S WRONG?
HAL, HE'S-!
sigh
DAMN THAT CRAZY KID...
...

...

...IS NO JOKE.
MAN, HAVING A MURDER IN MY SHOP...
cure
警視庁 立入禁止 KEEP OUT

IT'S NOT GREAT FOR BUSINESS, EITHER.
COULDN'T YOU HAVE DONE IT OUTSIDE...
...JIN?
HEY, NOW, REMEMBER...
IT WAS THE GUY WITH GLASSES THAT KILLED HASUME
Heh
OH, YEAH... RIGHT..
ALSO...
DID YOU LOOK FOR IT?
YEAH.
TURNED THE SHOP UPSIDE DOWN.

BUT I REALLY COULDN'T FIND...
WHAT IS IT?
WELL NOW, ISN'T THIS A SURPRISE?
LOOKS LIKE OUR LADY-KILLER'S BACK.
HE'S STILL SUPPOSED TO BE DETAINED!
WHAT THE HELL?
I'M SORRY, SIR...

WE'RE NOT OPEN QUITE YET, SO...
...
I'M KURABAYASHI, WITH THE GREATER KANTO PUBLIC WELFARE MINISTRY.
I'M CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION, AND I'D LIKE TO SEE THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
NARCOTICS AGENT
!
WHA..?
THE NCD...?
SHF

HEY!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
KEEP OUT
立入禁止
KEEP OUT
警戒厅
KEEP OUT
立入禁止
HE WAS..
...JUST ANOTHER JUNKIE...
THE GUY'S NARC?
YOU SAID HE WAS HASUMI'S NEW BOY-FRIEND!
HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY-THING ON HIM THAT WOULD'VE ID'D HIM AS A NARC
IF THAT BITCH SAID ANYTHING...
WELL, YOU AND I COULD BE IN DEEP TROUBLE!

IF SHE SAID ANY-THING...
...
!

ACTUALLY, HIS ARRIVAL IS...
...VERY CONVE-NIENT.
WOBBLE
WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS HERE. BUT WHY?
REMEMBER, DAMN IT!
THIS IS WHERE IT STARTS
I HAVE TO RETRACE FROM HERE.
GRIN
HE PROBABLY KNOWS WHERE IT IS.

WHAM
CRAP!
!
THE BACK DOOR'S THIS WAY, RIGHT?
Y-YES.
...
SKEE

SLAM
...
I MET UP WITH HASUMI AT 11 LAST NIGHT.
WE WALKED FROM THE PARKING LOT TO THE BACK DOOR OF THE CLUB, THROUGH THE ALLEY...
ugh
...
WHY ARE WE GOING IN THE BACK?

HE DOESN'T LIKE TO STAND OUT, SO HE SAID WE SHOULD GO AROUND BACK.
BUT IT'S FOR WORK, SO...
WHO'S THERE ?!
!!
throb
RRK

C-C'MON!
DAMN!
NOT THAT MEMORY!
DAD ...?
THEY SAY THAT A CRIMINAL WILL RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...
...
SUS-PECT KURA-BAYASHI ?

GUESS IT'S TRUE.
...
PAPA PAPA
!
WHAT IS IT?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
DID YOU SEE THE REAL KILLER OR SOMETHING?
STUPID QUESTION, THAT
GLARE

HMPH.
I'M HERE TO CHECK ON THE RESULTS OF AN INVESTIGATION A CERTAIN SOMEONE IS DOING ALL ON THEIR OWN.
THANKS FOR THE TIP.
KACHIK
WELL I DON'T THINK HE'D BE SO STUPID AS TO...
...COME BACK HERE AND SELL SO SOON AFTER THE MURDER.
...
HUH?
HAL'S...?

UNDERSTOOD. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
WHERE?
JUST A LITTLE BIT AHEAD
APPARENTLY HE WENT TO CLUB CURE IN ROPPONGI
THE SCENE OF THE MURDER...
ALL WE CAN DO IS CONFIRM ALL THE FACTS AND TRY TO TURN BACK TIME
HE'S TRYING TO RETRACE HIS MEMORY
...
YEAH, PROBABLY...

NARITA ...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE NOT YOUR USUAL CHEERFUL SELF.
WHY DOES HAL ALWAYS GO OUT ALONE?
THIS LAST INCIDENT HAPPENED WHEN HE WAS WORKING A CASE ON HIS OWN TIME AGAIN.
...
IT'S PROBABLY EASIER FOR HIM THAT WAY.
!
HUH?
BEING LEFT BY THE PEOPLE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU...
ANYBODY WOULD BE SCARED OF THAT.

"IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LOSE PEOPLE ANYWAY..
"IT'D BE BETTER TO BE ALONE."
...
NARITA, THAT'S...
HUH?
HEY, IT'S HIS IDEA, NOT MINE.
OH...
BUT STILL-
IF THAT'S HOW HE'S REALLY THINKING...

HE MUST BE ONE LONELY BASTARD.
...
KA KUNK

...
HELLO? YEAH.
WE'RE HEADED FOR CURE NOW.
WITH THE GUY I TOLD YOU ABOUT.
THE BACK DOOR? GOTCHA
YUP TALK TO YOU LATER.
BEEP
...

WAS THAT THE DEALER YOU SAID YOU'D INTRO-DUCE ME TO?
YUP.
THE ONE WITH THE SAME TATTOO AS ME
flip
ACK!
WHAT'S WRONG?
AW, IT WENT UNDER THE SEAT.
I CAN'T REACH IT!
SHOULD I STOP THE CAR?
NO.. DON'T BOTH-ER
sigh

WAS IT SOMETHING IMPORTANT?
OH, KIND OF.
BUT WE'LL BE BACK, ANYWAY.
I'LL GET IT AFTER WE MEET HIM.
!
WHAT DID SHE DROP...?
GRAB
Wha

...
KRIK
...
SHUFF
THIS WAS SO IMPOR-TANT?
KA KLINK
TING
KLINK

A KEY?
102
WHY WAS IT IN THE MAKEUP CASE?
IT'S LIKE IT WAS HIDDEN...

Act.48

A KEY?
WHY WAS IT IN THE MAKEUP CASE?
IT'S LIKE IT WAS HIDDEN...
WHAM
!

SMEK
FOUND YA!
...
BLEAH
NARTITA! I FOUND HAL!
...
SIGH
KA CHAK
...
HEY...
CHUUN

GET OUT.
NO!
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE WITH YOU HANGING AROUND!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
CHIK CHIK
FINE! I'LL SIT IN THE BACK SO YOU CAN'T SEE ME!
SLAM!
!
GAAK!
...
HMPH

...
THIS "LONER COP" BUSINESS IS A PROBLEM KID.
FWUF
HMPH.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN EITHER WAY IF HE'S GONNA FOLLOW ME AROUND.
SHF
SO?
MANAGE TO JOG YOUR MEMORY?
CHK CHK
ALL BUT THE IM-PORTANT PARTS, SURE.
SO IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME, HUH?
HA CHK
NOT NECES-SARILY.

HASUMI DROPPED IT IN MY CAR.
102
A NUMBER AND A TAG... FROM A COIN LOCKER?
SHE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT.
WAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT?
NO IDEA IF IT'S RELEVANT TO THE CASE...
A KEY...?
SHH
YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
TURNING IT OVER TO THE POLICE...
FULL RECLOSURE OF ALL EVIDENCE IS THE CONDITION OF MY RELEASE.
...
NOW, I'LL BET...
...YOU COULD FIND WHERE THIS LOCKER IS REALLY EASILY, COULDN'T YOU?

AND I'LL USE WHATEVER I HAVE TO USE TO BREAK THIS CASE.
Sigh
ALWAYS THE TOUGH GUY, AIN'T YOU?
I'LL LET YOU BORROW IT.
IT WON'T BE MUCH OF AN INVESTIGATION IF I GET BOGGED DOWN IN THE DETAILS.
...
OH, ALSO ...
THERE'S ONE MORE PRESENT.
MIGHT COME IN HANDY.
YOU COULD'VE JUST NICELY SAID YOU'D TRUST ME.
SHT
SHT

...
IT'S THE KEY TO HASUMI ABE'S RESI-DENCE.
WE'RE GOT HER MOTHER'S PERMISSION, SO FEEL FREE TO LOOK AROUND.
CHI-N
ASIDE FROM US, NOBODY'S BEEN IN THERE SINCE THE MURDER
I'LL HANG ONTO THIS.
NOW... THE QUES-TION OF WHO'S GONNA WATCH YOU WHILE I'M GONE...
I'M GONNA HAVE THE KID WATCH YOU IN MY PLACE.
IF YOU CAN HANDLE THAT CONDITION, YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WHILE I'M CHECKING OUT THIS LOCKER.
...
...
I DON'T REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE, DO I?
NOT REALLY.

DON'T DO ANY-THING STUPID.
...
I WON'T.
KATUNK
!
HAL...
CHIK KA-CHIK
ALL RIGHT, GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN... LISTEN UP

I'LL KICK YOU RIGHT OUT OF THE CAR.
IF YOU INTERFERE WITH MY CASE IN THE SLIGHTEST...
YOU'LL STAY OUT OF MY WAY IF IT KILLS YOU.
!
...
KROOM
...FINE

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES BEING FOLLOWED.
THE NARCS HAVE A TAIL TOO.
...
TWO OF THEM.
STAY ON THEM.
UNDER-STOOD.
BEEP
WHAT'S UP WITH KISA?

HE SAID WORK'S KEEPING HIM LATE.
HEY, THAT'S JUST GOING TO MAKE HIM LATER.
BUT ISN'T CURE CLOSED BECAUSE OF THE MURDER?
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO NEXT?
ARE YOU SURE HASUMI'S GUY HAS IT?
IT WAS STOLEN. AN ACT OF GOD, I GUESS.
I WAS AGAINST BRINGING HER IN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
IN ANY CASE...
wham
THE KEY?
I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE YET, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE.
DAMN!
AT THE MOMENT THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER CLUES.
...
IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE'RE GOING TO BE SCREWED.

WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS.
OPTION ONE-
WE CATCH THAT GUY, GET HIM TO TELL US WHERE THE KEY IS, AND END THINGS NICE AND QUIETLY.
OPTION TWO-
IF THE GUY DOESN'T KNOW WHERE THE KEY IS...
WE'LL GIVE THE UPPER MANAGEMENT SOMETHING *ELSE* IN IT'S PLACE AND GET OFF THE HOOK FOR OUR CARELESSNESS.
SOMETHING ELSE?
IN EITHER CASE...
...WE'RE GONNA NEED THAT NARC.

...
THE TAPE, IT'S BEEN...
...HUH?
SCHK
!
SOME KIND OF PRANK?
KREEE
!

ぐしゃ
!!
NO ONE EXCEPT FOR AGENTS HAVE BEEN IN HERE, RIGHT?
...
HEY-
DON'T YOU THINK THIS BAG IS CUTE?
YOU BOUGHT ANOTHER ONE?

THIS IS A PRETTY EXPENSIVE BRAND, RIGHT?
IS THE MONEY REALLY SO GOOD, BEING A DEALER?
NO WAY. I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO GET BY ON JUST DEALING...
ACTUALLY, I DON'T JUST SELL.
I ALSO TRANS-PORT.
...
FWUMP
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I GET SO MUCH
WHAT DO YOU CARRY?
NO IDEA.
I DON'T ASK, AND THEY PAY ME.
ISN'T THAT DANGER-OUS?
YOU THINK SO?
ALL THEY HAVE ME DO IS MOVE STUFF FROM ONE LOCKER TO ANOTHER
I DO WONDER WHAT I'M CARRYING THOUGH
MAYBE I'LL JUST SNEAK A PEEK NEXT TIME.

THINK YOU CAN REMEMBER ANYTHING?
...
HASUMI WAS A MULE TOO.
ALTHOUGH SHE NEVER HAD ANY IDEA WHAT SHE WAS MOVING.
A MULE...
SHOVE
THAT COULD BE THE REASON SHE WAS KILLED.
!
...
PEEK
WHAT IS IT?

A TRAVEL MAGAZINE?
WHY WAS IT HIDDEN BACK THERE..?
...

WHAT CAN I GET YOU?
...
GOT ANY DS OR DD?
...
I'M VERY SORRY, SIR, BUT ...
WE DON'T STOCK THOSE ITEMS.
OH, OK.
Guess I shoulda checked ahead of time...
SHU

GRAB
ONE MO-MENT, SIR.
!
SHF
...
THANKS.
PLEASE COME AGAIN, SIR.
HOW'D IT GO?
MUST BE BECAUSE OF THE MURDER.
INSTEAD OF DOING DEALS DIRECTLY, THEY'RE PASSING ALONG A CONTACT NUMBER.
LOOKS LIKE OL' KURABAYASHI WAS RIGHT ON THE MONEY.
Ain't surprised.
YEAH.

SO IT'S NEAR 100 PERCENT CERTAIN THAT THERE'S DEALING GOING DOWN AT CLUB ARROW....
WELL, WELL...
WHA
WHAT'S UP?
IF IT AIN'T THE ROOKIE TEAM FROM SECTION 1.
NO KIDDIN'?
WHA
THOSE GUYS GOTTA LEARN SUBTLETY.
THIS IS SO DAMN DICEY..
Sigh
WHAT CAN I GET FOR YOU?

GIN.
...
WHAT I WANT IS DS.
...
NO—
DRY GIN
WILL YOU TAKE THAT STRAIGHT UP?
TUNK
SHF
TAKE THIS TO THE BACK ENTRANCE
gin
HAL?
YOU WAIT HERE.

WHAT?
IT'S ME.
OUR "MURDER-ER" IS HERE.
...
...
I WANT TO BUY DIRECTLY FROM JIN.
OH, SURE...

WHAM
!
HE'S BEEN WANTING TO MEET *YOU* TOO.
SHU
WHERE'S THE *KEY*, MURDERER?
YOU HAVE IT, DON'T YOU?
UGH!
THE KEY?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T PLAY DUMB, PAL. *HASUMI'S* KEY.

!
WELL, THIS IS UNEXPECTED.
IS THAT KURABAYASHI I SEE?
DASH
WAIT !
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE GETTING CROWDED THERE.
HA!
!
GRAB
DAMMIT, YOU'RE FROM SECTION 2!

A SIMPLE "THANKS" WOULD SUFFICE.
HAL, C'MON!
YOU'RE TRYING TO RUIN MY CASE, AREN'T YOU?
GOD DAM-MIT!
...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ANY-BODY WOULD HELP WHEN THEIR FRIEND'S IN TROU-BLE.
THEIR FRIEND?
I DON'T NEED...
...ANY FRIENDS.

!
...
UM—
WAIT, HAL!
HEY, ETO.
DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HIM AGAIN.
TOO DANGER-OUS.
...
YEAH...

...
I TOLD YOU TO STAY THERE.
I'M SORRY...
I WAS WORRIED...
DON'T GET IN MY WAY NEXT TIME.
"CINNAMON."
WHERE ARE YOU...?
NEXT TIME?
IT'S ONE OF THE THREE CLUBS WHERE JIN IS DEALING.
THAT'S DANGEROUS!
THEY KNEW YOUR FACE AT THE LAST CLUB!

GOING UNPREPARED INTO PLACES CRAWLING WITH PERPS.
IT'S JUST...
IT'S FINE.
WHA--?
I'LL BE PISSED IF SOMETHING DOESN'T HAPPEN.
HAL...?
IF A MURDER SUSPECT LIKE ME STANDS OUT IN A PLACE FULL OF PERPS--
THEY'RE PROBABLY GONNA MAKE A MOVE.
IF IT'S THE RYUGEN, ALL THE MORE SO.
I AM THE BAIT THAT'S GONNA DRAW THEM OUT!
!

THAT CAN'T BE...
THAT WAS THE PLAN ALL ALONG?
EVERY-ONE KNEW EXCEPT FOR YOU.
NO...
IT'S THE ONLY REASON THEY LET ME GO FREE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
THEY CAN'T
...!
...
STOP THE CAR
STOP THE CAR!

EEEE
SCREECH
...
GET OUT.
I TOLD YOU IF YOU INTERFERED, I'D KICK YOU TO THE CURB.
NO...

I WON'T...
...LEAVE YOU ALONE.
...
YOUR PLATI-TUDES WON'T HELP BUST THIS CASE
CH'K
HAI....
YOU WANT ME TO JUST DO NOTH-ING AND STAY IN JAIL?
I JUST...
...DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO GET HURT...
KNOCK IT OFF.

WHAT HAPPENS TO ME...
...IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
KACHAK
WAIT!
HAL!
CHIK
CHIK
HAL...
SLAP

HAL!
...

Act.49

HA!
...
...
ZA
A
A
A
KRRK
I'VE GOT TO CATCH UP TO HIM!
IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS

YOU'RE A NARC, RIGHT?
HEY.
RAZ

CLAMY
102
ALL RIGHT.
NUMBER 102... HERE WE ARE.
JR SHOJI STATI
OPEN IT.
KACHIK
SHOULD WE TAKE IT BACK TO HQ AND LOOK AT IT THERE?
NO, WE'RE OPENING IT NOW.
!

...THE HELL IS THIS?
CLOTHES, MAKEUP BAG, UNDER-WEAR...
IT'S JUST HASUMI ABE'S... STUFF.
LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS GONNA SPEND THE NIGHT SOME-WHERE
SHUE
!
JAPANESE PASSPORT
SOME-WHERE LIKE A FOREIGN COUNTRY ?
!!
A PASS-PORT AND THIS IS A TICKET TO ENG-LAND.
SHE WAS GOING ALONE?
AND LOOK AT THE DATE ..
HER FLIGHT DEPARTED THE DAY AFTER SHE WAS MUR-DERED.
!

ANOTHER KEY...?
204
204
CRAP.
BACK TO SQUARE ONE.
GOOD JOB ON THIS ONE.
JUST TAILED THEM RIGHT TO CLUB ARROW.
YEAH.
IT'S EVEN GOT THE PLATES WE ASKED ABOUT, SEE?
IT'S DEFINITELY THE GUY WHO KILLED HASUMI
HE HAD HIS NCD BADGE.
YEAH.

!
WHAT'S UP?
HUH.
THIS ISN'T THE GUY.
WHAT ?!
BUT I...
OH, HE'S A NARC ALL RIGHT!
PROBABLY A FRIEND OF OUR MURDERER.
DAMN!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GONNA GO GRAB THE REAL GUY
NO NEED FOR THAT.

HE'LL COME TO US.
?!
SHF
KAKAK
THIS IS ISOBE.
THE TWO ROOKIES FROM SECTION 1 ENTERED CLUB ARROW.
Dance Club
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO BE HITTING ALL THREE CLUBS CONFIRMED TO BE INVOLVED WITH DS AND DD, YES?
THEY WERE SAVED BY KAZAMI FROM ANOTHER PERP.
AFTER MAKING CONTACT WITH THE BAR-TENDER...
PROB-ABLY.
I FIG-URED...
UNDER-STOOD

YOU GET THAT?
YES
THEY'RE PROBABLY BOTH HEADED TO CLUB CINNAMON NOW
THE GANG OVER THERE IS ACTING A LOT BOLDER.
BE CAREFUL.
COPY THAT.
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A CHANCE THE PERPS ARE GOING TO MAKE THEIR MOVE AT THE THIRD PLACE, CLUB CINNAMON
IS THIS REALLY GOING TO CLEAR HAL'S NAME?
WELL...
I CERTAINLY *HOPE* SO.
ZAA

AH.
ALL RIGHT, UNDERSTOOD.
BEEP
WHAT'S UP?
WE'LL WAIT A LITTLE LONGER HERE AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS
...
SCREWED UP. GOT THE WRONG GUY.
SO...
DON'T SWEAT IT.
HE'LL PROBABLY COME TO US
HUH?
IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT HE'S DISCOVERED THE THREE CLUBS WE SELL AT AND IS VISITING EACH OF THEM
APPARENTLY HE WALKED RIGHT UP TO KANZAKI OVER AT ARROW.
!

IF HE KNOWS WHO WE ARE, THEN WE'RE BUSTED!
CALM DOWN.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SEND HIM AROUND BACK, LIKE USUAL.
SHF
?!
WHF
!
WHAT CAN I GET YOU?

GIN, STRAIGHT UP.
...
KAZU-AKI SAKAI.
I KNOW YOU'RE THE FRONT MAN HERE.
SO TELL ME WHERE JIN IS.
...
I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.
ALL I DO IS GIVE THIS TO THE PEOPLE WHO ASK FOR IT.
...
IF YOU GO ROUND BACK, THERE'S A GUY WHO WILL SHOW WHAT TO DO.
SO JUST GO, OKAY?

...
SO HE DID COME.
I NEED YOU TO CHECK SOME-THING OUT FOR ME.
YEAH?
VRRRR
IF IT'S ABOUT KURA-BAYASHI HE JUST WENT IN A SECOND AGO.
YES, I SAW HIM.
BUT ETO SHOULD'VE BEEN WITH HIM, AND HE WASN'T.
KURA-BAYASHI SHOWED UP IN A TAXI, ALONE.
THAT MEANS THEY SPLIT UP SOME-WHERE BETWEEN CLUB ARROW AND HERE.
PROBA-BLY, YEAH.
THAT WASN'T THE PLAN I HEARD
I'M GOING TO STAY ON KURABAYASHI. CAN YOU CONTACT ETO, JUST TO MAKE SURE?
UNDER-STOOD.

GOD, I HOPE NOTHING'S HAPPENED...
KATAK
...
TAK TAK
...
I WANT TO SEE JIN.
SURE. JUST TURN OVER THE KEY.
I DON'T HAVE IT.
IF YOU THINK I'M LYING, CHECK FOR YOURSELF.
HEH.
SHU
THE KEY?
YOU HAVE IT, DON'T YOU?
WHERE'S THE KEY, MURDERER?

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA PLAY DUMB?
!
YOU'RE A NARC, RIGHT?
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE! SO'S THIS GUY.
...
NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE.
WELL, WE HAVE HIM NOW.
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HIM ..
KLAK
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO ASK HIM.
...
AND I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANY COM-PLAINTS IF HE DIES
KREEE
...
THAT DAMNED GOOD-FOR-NOTH-ING...

HOW LONG IS HE GONNA KEEP GETTING IN MY WAY?!
WAIT.
GRAB
...
WHOK
!
...
WHUMP
CHAK
SHF

KRAK
!!
...
WHUMP
...
KREEE
KATUNK

WHY ARE WE GOING IN THE BACK?
HE DOESN'T LIKE TO STAND OUT, SO HE SAID WE SHOULD GO AROUND BACK...
BUT IT'S FOR WORK, SO...
!
HASUMI, A MOMENT.
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S IMPORTANT.
...

I'M SORRY... I'VE GOT PLANS RIGHT AFTER THIS... ACTUALLY
I JUST BROUGHT HIM ALONG TO SEE
HIM?
OH, YOUR NEW BOY-FRIEND
IF HE WANTS DRUGS, IT'S GONNA HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL WE'RE DONE HERE
GRAB
OW!
STOP!
HEY.
DOES THAT BOTHER YOU?
...
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, JUNKIE.
KRAK
WHA

WHUD
NO, HE'S -!
I TOLD YOU TO TURN OVER THE KEY, DIDN'T I?
I TOLD YOU AL-READY!
IT'S BE-CAUSE YOU DIDN'T DO AS YOU WERE TOLD
...
I LOST IT!
YOU IDIOT.
A KEY ...?
WE ALREADY FOUND OUT YOU'VE BEEN TAKING CASH FROM YOUR DELIVERIES.
WHO'S GOING TO BE-LIEVE A LIE LIKE THAT?
GRAB
IF YOU WERE THINKING OF DITCHING US, WE CAN'T HAVE THAT
AND YOU'RE GONNA COUGH UP THE CASH, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO KILL YOU.

TAKE HER AWAY.
UMF!
Sigh.
DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO VIOLENT AROUND MY BAR?
YOUR BAR?
YOU'RE PRETTY UPPITY FOR A HIRED MANAGER.
WHAT'S THIS GUY?!
OH, RIGHT.
HE'S HASUMI'S NEW GUY
LOCK HIM UP IN THE BATH-ROOM.
THE BATH-ROOM?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GONNA.
I WAS THINKING I'D USE IT.

HEY, WE'RE JUST ABOUT TO START MAKING REAL MONEY.
BUT IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN IF WE GET HAULED IN FOR MURDER, YOU KNOW?
!
JIN...
YOU CAN'T MEAN —
JUST IN CASE, CUT THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN THE BATHROOM AND AT THE BACK DOOR.
D-DON'T JOKE ABOUT THAT!
I DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS!
Sigh
IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO PRETEND TO BE A GOOD PERSON
ONE FOR ALL, ALL FOR ONE, RIGHT?
YOU'RE MAKING MONEY ON THIS TOO.
!
FINE, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S HOPE IT ENDS HERE.
KREE
LOOKS LIKE .. ANOTHER BAG
...YUP.
!!
AKI, THIS IS—
...
WELL, HOW 'BOUT THAT.
RRNGG
THIS JUST GOT DICEY.

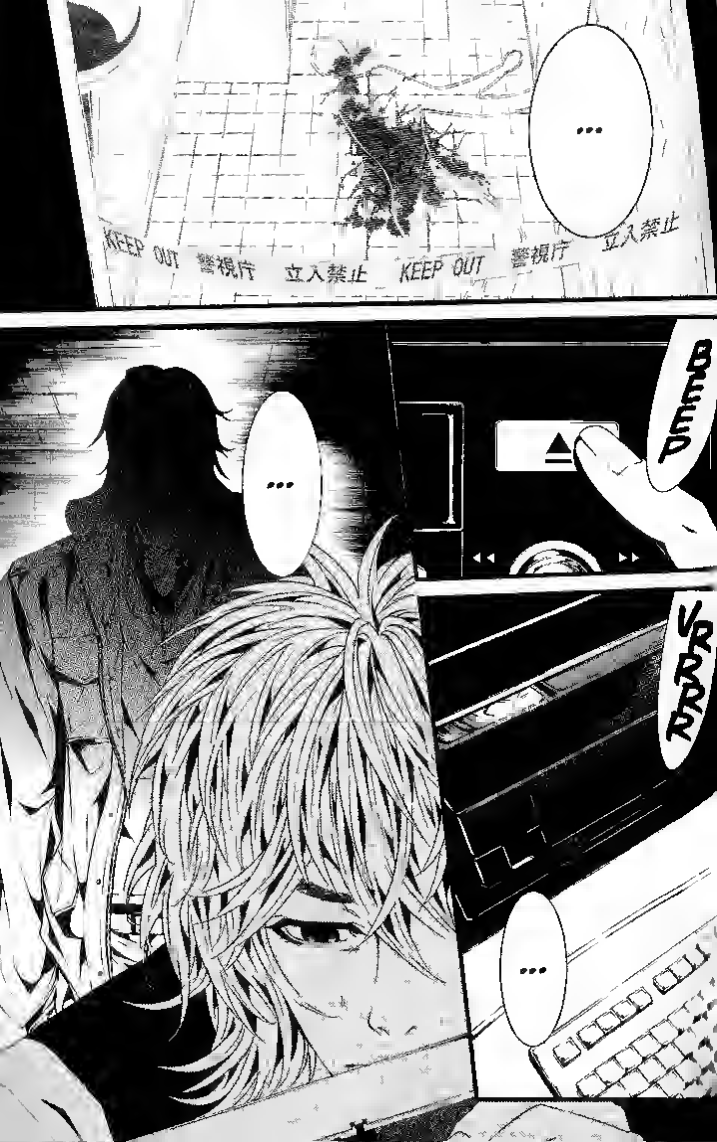
VRRRR
VRRRR
WE'RE SORRY, THE NUMBER YOU'VE DIALED CANNOT BE REACHED YOUR PARTY MAY BE OUTSIDE THE SERVICE AREA, OR MAY HAVE SWITCHED OFF-
...
AKI?
DOES THAT MEAN THINGS HAVE HEATED UP IN THE LAST COUPLE OF HOURS?
WE'RE GOING.
HUH?
HUH—
FULL BARS IN ALL THREE
WHAT WAS THE CELL RECEPTION IN THOSE CLUBS LIKE?

WE GOTTA FIND THOSE KIDS.
HAL!
SPLASH
!
...
ZAK
UGH...
FINALLY AWAKE...

GRAB
—!
!
MISTER MURDERER?
JIN!
I'VE GOT A LOT OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU.
KRRK
.. WE FINAL-LY MEET.

Act.50

YOU HAVE ONE NEW MESSAGE.
IT'S ME.
WE'VE GOT TWO NARCS AT THE USUAL PLACE.
THIS CONCERNS YOU, TOO, SO GET DOWN HERE.
BEEEEP
DAMN!
DAMN YOU FOR GETTING ME MIXED UP IN THIS!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KEEP OUT 警視庁 立入禁止 KEEP OUT 警視庁 立入禁止
...
BEEP
VRRR
...

KRAK
THUMP
UGH!
HAL!
GASP
!

COME ON, SPIT IT OUT.
WHERE'S MY KEY?
SURE, ONCE YOU ANSWER MY QUESTION.
THAT TATTOO ON YOUR SHOULDER–
IT'S A FAKE, RIGHT?

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT!
!
HAL!
ASH
GRAB
!
OH WELL —
KACHAK
CHANGE OF PLANS.
!

THIS KID WAS WORK-ING WITH YOU?
ETO, WAS IT?
IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, NOW'S THE TIME.
KA CHA
STOP IT!
THE KEY'S GONE!
SHUU
I'M NOT LYING!
Tch

WE GAVE THE KEY TO THE POLICE!
WHA
!
THEY'RE CHECKING OUT THE LOCKER RIGHT NOW.
...
THE PO-LICE?
IF THAT'S TRUE THIS IS OUR WORST CASE SCE-NARIO.
WHAT RE WE GONNA DO?!
ONLY ONE THING TO DO
IF WE DON'T GIVE THE BOSSES SUITABLE COMPENSA-TION, THEN WE'RE SCREWED.
!
FIRST WE'LL PICK ONE OF YOU TO KILL.
AND THE OTHER ...

...WE'LL SEND BACK AS AN NCD SNITCH
!!
heh
BWHAHAHA!
!!
!
YOU GUYS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A BUNCH OF FAKE RYUGEN!
YOUR METHODS ARE AS HALF-ASSED AS YOU ARE STUPID.
THE REAL THING WOULD NEVER BOTHER WITH TRYING TO MAKE THIS KID INTO AN IN-FORMER.
SO IT'S TRUE, THEN!

HE'S BE BUSTED AS SOON AS HIS DRUG TESTS CAME BACK.
YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE A DECENT COPY OF THE STUFF WITH THE SAME INGREDIENTS.
AND THEN YOU GO AND GET THE RYUGEN SLAVE MARK...
GRAB
SO WHAT?
IF THE MARK MAKES PEOPLE TRUST US AND BUY MORE, THEN I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.
SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE CHEAPSKATE WHO'S NEVER MADE REAL MONEY.
GRAB
YOU WANT TO MAKE SOME REAL MONEY?
SEE THIS KID? HE'S A MORON WITH AN IDIOTIC SENSE OF "JUSTICE."
I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH YOU DRUG HIM UP OR BEAT HIM DOWN, HE'S GOOD FOR NOTHING AS AN INFORMANT.

USE ME INSTEAD.
SHUT
SO?
I CAN GIVE YOU AS MUCH INFORMATION AS YOU NEED.
HAL...?
SHE
YOU CAN'T JUST...
...TURN INTO AN INFORMER!
HE IS PRETTY ANNOYING.
YOU CAN TELL JUST BY TALKING TO US WHICH ONE'S THE SMART ONE
...

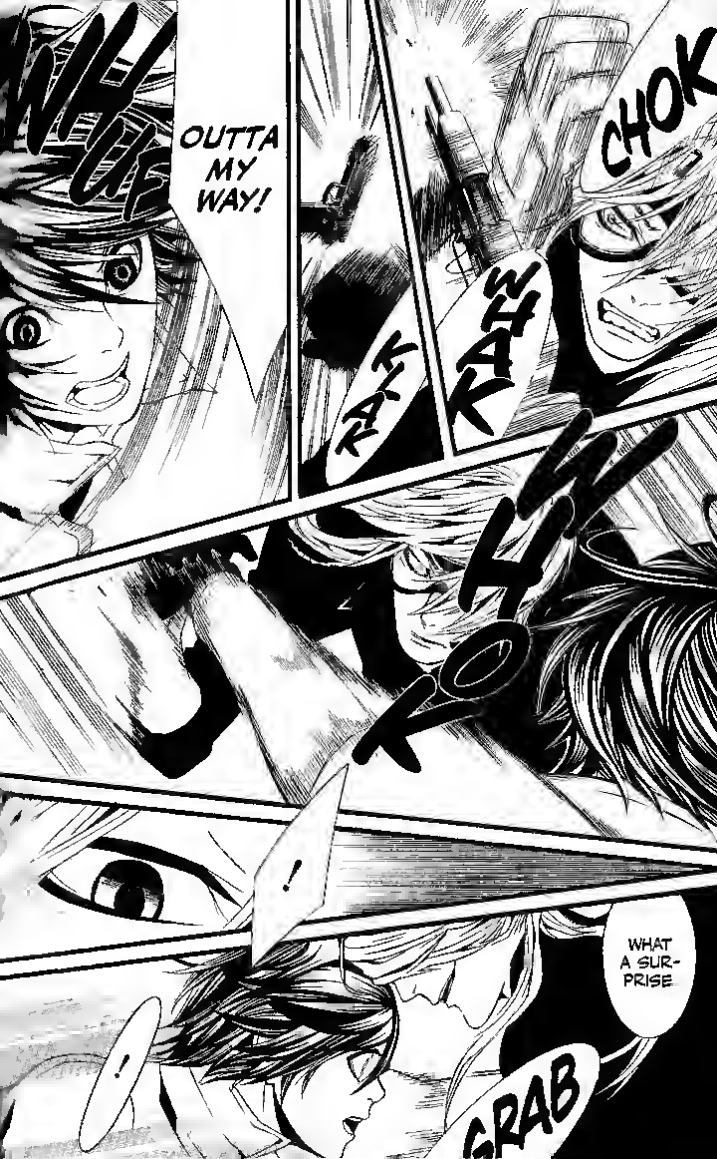
SHUT UP.
WHAT
WHA

BA
BUM
BA
HAL...

GO!
GO!
GO!
CHA
CHA
CHANGG
WHA
BRRP

GRAB
!
GUH ...
ZHUP
DIE.
HEE
OK
!!
CHK
!

!
!!
GRIN
ETO!
!!
CS
WHA
S/F


WH
OUTTA MY WAY!
CHOK
KAW
KOK
!
!
WHAT A SUR-PRISE
GRAB

WHUMP
!
YOU'RE "THE OTHER ONE" I HEARD RUMORS ABOUT.
I GUESS THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET...
ISN'T IT?

Sigh ...
IT'S DEFINITELY THE FIRST TIME WE'VE PROPERLY MET
Hee hee
YES ...
IT CERTAINLY IS.
IT'S WEIRD
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THE FIRST TIME AT ALL.
Ha ha ha
BUT THIS TIME WAS DIFFERENT
YUP.
RIGHT WHEN THE CONTENTS OF HER DELIVERY CHANGED, HER PLAN TO ESCAPE ABROAD WAS DISCOVERED, AND SHE WAS KILLED.
HASUMI ABE, THE VICTIM, WAS BEING USED AS A MULE.
AND SHE KNEW THAT NORMALLY HER DELIVERIES CONSISTED OF DRUG MONEY
THE KEY YOUR KURABAYASHI GAVE US LED US TO THIS.
HANDGUNS...
ANYWAY, FIRST OFF NO PROBLEMS WITH OUR INCIDENT REPORT HERE?
NO.

THE HEAD OF THE GROUP WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN GANG ACTIVITY.
SO HE DID SOME GUN DEALING AS WELL.
THE HEAD WAS INVOLVED IN GANG ACTIVITY..
SO...
CREAK
RIGHT.
THEY WEREN'T RYUGEN.
WE PROVED THAT THE STUFF THEY WERE SELLING WAS A KNOCK-OFF.
WE DIDN'T KILL THE GIRL.
Interrogation Room
THEY WERE DEFINITELY SELLING NARCOTICS
BUT...
SO FAR WE DON'T HAVE ANY MATERIAL EVIDENCE THEY COMMITTED MURDER-ONLY TESTIMONY
KAJI.
DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PROOF?
YEAH.
BEEP

BAM!
THIS IS-!
BEEP
IT'S FOOTAGE FROM THE SURVEIL-LANCE CAMERA FROM WHEN THEY KILLED THE VICTIM.
WE SEIZED IT FROM KISA, ONE OF THE GUYS IN THE GANG.
KISA ...
THE FLOOR MANAGER FROM CLUB CURE THAT WAS THERE WHEN THE MURDER HAPPENED...
WITH THIS-
AGENT KURABAYASHI'S INNOCENCE IS UNQUES-TIONABLE.
CHK

"COINCIDENCE," EH?
I NOTICE THAT YOUR SECTION 2 HAD AGENTS WATCHING THOSE KIDS.
WE PLACED AGENTS IN EACH OF THE THREE CLUBS.
AND BY SOME COINCIDENCE, MANAGED TO GET THE TAPE.
WHEN DID YOU ...?
...
THAT WASN'T A COINCIDENCE, EITHER, WAS IT?
SO WHEN MY GUYS AND YOURS RAN INTO EACH OTHER WHEN THINGS HEATED UP...
DETECTIVE NARITA ...
DID YOU INTEND TO GRAB THE CREDIT FOR THE BUST, TOO?
IF I MAY BE SO BOLD...
WELL, WE CERTAINLY TRUST THE POLICE FORCE.
BUT WHY NOT ADD SOME INSURANCE, JUST IN CASE?

WHAT WE PROMISED YOU FROM THE BE-GINNING...
...WAS SIMPLY A DISCLOSURE OF INFOR-MATION AND THE SPECIFICS OF HAL'S ACTIVITIES, WAS IT NOT?
I SHOULD RETURN THIS TO YOU.
ZNG
TWITCH
...
OH, ALSO ...
WELL-MADE, ISN'T IT?
IT'S A LIGHTER WITH A TINY LISTENING DEVICE CONCEALED IN IT. HOWEVER..
JUST SLIPPING HIM THIS...
...DIDN'T ME..N YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN YOUR EYES OFF AN AGENT IN A DECOY OPER..TION.
UH... WELL... I...
SO THANKS TO YOU...

TWO OF OUR AGENTS LIVES WERE IN IMMINENT DANGER.
...AND WERE ABOUT TO BE SACRIFICED
...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED, MY APOLOGIES FOR THE EX-POST-FACTO ANNOUNCEMENT,
FEEL FREE TO ATTEND TO THE WEAPONS AND HOMICIDE ASPECTS, SINCE THOSE ARE OUT OF OUR JURISDICTION
HUH ?!
WE'LL BE TAKING FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENTIRE CASE.
REGARDING THIS LATEST DRUG TRAFFICKING INCIDENT--
ONE LAST THING.

SCRIFF
SCRIFF
OOPS.
WE SCREWED UP THE HOMICIDE PROOF AND THE BODY-GUARD DETAIL, SO HE TOOK THE DRUG BUST FROM US!
Gaaaah
SO, THE YOUNG CHIEF—
HOW WAS HE?
BUT IT'LL BE A BIG HAUL ONCE EVERYTHING'S SETTLED.
KA CHAN
YOU THINK SO?
THE NCD'S UNDER-STAFFED, SO THEY USED US TO DOUBLE UP THE GUARD ON THE KIDS...
...WHICH MEANT WE GOT ROPED INTO BEING AT THE BUST.
NO WAY. YOU'RE OVER-THINKING THIS.
HE GOT EXACTLY THE EVIDENCE HE NEEDED, PLUS ALL THE CREDIT FOR THE DRUG BUST.
IF THAT WAS HIS PLAN FROM THE BEGIN-NING...

VROOM
GET US OUTTA HERE!
Y-YESSIR!
SHIVER
SHIVER
MAN! IT GIVES ME CHILLS JUST TO THINK ABOUT IT!
So cold!
UH, AKI?
YEAH?
TUP
I DON'T WANT TO THINK THAT THE WHOLE THING WAS IN THE PALM OF THAT BASTARD'S HAND ALL ALONG...
HE'S A TOUGH CUSTOMER.
GUESS WE SHOULD....
WE'RE NOT GOING TO STOP BY THE HOSPITAL?
OH, YEAH...

YO.
...
PATAN
YOU LOOK WELL.
...
I DON'T CARE WHAT KIND OF BODY ARMOR YOU'VE GOT, GETTING SHOT AT THAT DISTANCE IS BAD BUSINESS. I WAS WORRIED.
Examination Room 3
TUP
YEAH... THANKS

TAKE IT, YOU THIEF.
SHUFF
HERE. SPOILS OF WAR.
YOU WON, AFTER ALL.
YOU WERE THE FIRST TO FIND JIN.
PAT
I CAN'T TAKE IT.
I DIDN'T DO IT ON MY OWN.
...
YOU GUYS WON THIS ONE
!
SHF

WAS THAT... HIS WAY OF SAYING THANKS?
And I don't smoke, so what am I gonna do with these?
TOUGH KID!
PLISH
PLISH
ZA
A
A

FLASH
UH-
I KINDA TOOK IT WITHOUT ASKING.
HERE ... I'M SORRY.
...
W-WAIT!
SHF
IT'S JUST A BRUISE
YOUR MEDICAL EXAM'S DONE ALREADY? ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH?
UM. UHH
YEAH.

I THOUGHT IT'D BE A PAIN IF THEY STAYED BRO-KEN
...
AND...
THANKS FOR SAVING ME BACK THERE.
YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR ME.
YOU'RE A REALLY IMPORTANT FRIEND TO ME, SO...
I MEAN...
BUT I-
I KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING YOU DON'T NEED FRIENDS.
AND I MEAN

NEXT TIME, I'LL PRO-TECT-
THE RAIN...
...HUH?
IT STOPPED.
OH, YEAH.
I'M HEADING BACK.
TINK
AH-

WAIT UP!

I'M JUST GLAD THEY'RE PALS AGAIN.

SWITCH 10 THE END